

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICAE-00 NSCE-00
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O R 250951Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8080
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2902

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, SAEC, LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: MAY 25, 1978 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 2840 (DTG 221321Z MAY 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. BOUTROS VISITED DAMASCUS. PRESIDENT
SARKIS SIDESTEPPED THE ISSUE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNSC
RESOLUTION 425 AND THE CAIRO AGREEMENT. PLO AGAIN PROMISED
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TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL AND GOL. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
CONDEMNED THE TERRORIST ATTACK AT ORLY. A FRENCH DIPLOMAT
DENIED NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT THE GOL HAD ROUNDED UP TERROR-
ISTS PLANNING AN ATTACK ON THE FRENCH EMBASSY. FORMER PRESIDENT
FRANGIE WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL. END SUMMARY.

2. LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS MET WITH SYRIAN

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM IN DAMASCUS ON MAY 22. THE TWO MEN ISSUED A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT SAYING PRESIDENT SARKIS WOULD PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO DAMASCUS AROUND MAY 30.

3. CAIRO AGREEMENT AND UNSC RESOLUTION 425.

A. PRESIDENT SARKIS WHILE PRESIDING AT A MEETING OF THE CABINET ON MAY 24 APPARENTLY SIDESTEPED THE ISSUE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNSC RESOLUTION 425 AND THE CAIRO AGREEMENT (SEPTTEL). ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN, SARKIS TOLD THE CABINET THAT "THE DEFINITIVE POSITION WHICH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE ON THE CAIRO AGREEMENT IS ONE THING AND THE APPLICATION OF UNSC RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426 IS ANOTHER THING." SARKIS ALSO REAFFIRMED THAT THE GOL SUPPORTED THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

B. ON MAY 21 PRIME MINISTER AL HOSS HAD INDICATED HE BELIEVED THE CAIRO AGREEMENT WAS STILL VALID. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL LEBANESE NEWS AGENCY, HOSS TOLD THE LEFTIST DAILY AS-SAFIR THAT "I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE REALISTIC TO CANCEL ONE REGULATORY TOOL BEFORE FINDING ANOTHER." HOSS ALSO REMARKED THAT, CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, THERE HAD BEEN NO JOINT PALESTINIAN/LEBANESE COMMITTEE FORMED TO DISCUSS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOL AND PLO.

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4. PLO PROMISES OF COOPERATION. AT A MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER AL HOSS ON MAY 24, YASIR ARAFAT AND OTHER PLO LEADERS REAFFIRMED THEIR INTENTIONS TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL AND PLEDGED TO PREVENT CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR BY PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON (SEPTTEL). ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT BY A PLO SPOKESMAN, THE PLO "ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER OF ITS INTENTIONS TO FACILITATE THE MISSION OF THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL....DENOUNCED ALL VIOLATIONS AND NEGATIVE ACTIONS IN THE SOUTH AND EXPRESSED ITS TOTAL READINESS TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO PUT A STOP TO THESE VIOLATIONS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME TO SAFEGUARD LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS."

5. FOREIGN MINISTRY CONDEMNS ORLY ATTACK. A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON MAY 22 OFFICIALLY CONDEMNED THE MAY 20 TERRORIST ATTACK AT ORLY AIRPORT IN PARIS AS A "HOSTILE ACT AGAINST THE SECURITY OF A FRIENDLY STATE." THE SPOKESMAN SAID "THIS ACTION WAS AIMED IN THE FIRST PLACE AT LEBANON'S OWN SECURITY, SINCE FRANCE PARTICIPATES IN THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES TRYING TO HELP LEBANON RESTORE ITS FULL AUTHORITY OVER THE SOUTH."

6. ALLEGED ARREST OF TERRORISTS. ENGLISH DAILY IKE REPORTED

ON MAY 24 THAT LEBANESE POLICE ON MAY 23 HAD ROUNDED UP 22 MEMBERS OF A NETWORK PLANNING TO BOMB THE FRENCH EMBASSY TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF THE THREE TERRORISTS KILLED IN THE MAY 20 ATTACK AT ORLY AIRPORT. ACCORDING TO A FRENCH DIPLOMAT, HOWEVER, THE POLICE HAD ARRESTED ONLY TWO MEN WHO WERE LOITERING IN FRONT OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY AND WHO APPARENTLY HAD NO INTENTION OF ATTACKING IT. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS ON MAY 23 SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF A PLANNED ATTACK.

7. FRANGIE LEAVES HOSPITAL. FORMER PRESIDENT SULEIMAN FRANGIE LEFT THE HOTEL DIEU HOSPITAL ON MAY 23 AFTER NINE DAYS OF TREATMENT FOR A "MILD HEART ATTACK."

8. SOUTH LEBANON QUIET. THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON
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REMAINS RELATIVELY QUIET, WITH NO REPORTS OF SERIOUS INCIDENTS. THE FIRST IRISH UNIFIL TROOPS ARRIVED IN TEL AVIV ON MAY 24. LANE

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